

Partisan propaganda and blatant lies should not be broadcast as news, and corporations and TV stations that misuse the public airwaves in this way should lose their broadcast licences. Broadcasting lies in multiple markets over multiple stations only compounds the damage to our democracy and country. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of partisan politics as a disservice to the public and the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more biased and dishonest "news" programs and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of slanted coverage imposed by the central owners, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more honest and substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Stations that misuse their broadcast privileges to broadcast dishonest slander should lose their licences. Thank you.